

PREFACE

AN INHERENT AND INALIENABLE RIGHT OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE OF ALBERTA IS THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND THAT RIGHT IS SET OUT IN THE TREATY.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER IS TO CLARIFY AND AFFIRM THE MEANING OF THIS RIGHT TO EDUCATION. IT IS TO IDENTIFY THE ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE WITHIN EDUCATION. FURTHER, IT IS TO ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION AS PART OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE OF ALBERTA'S DIRECTION FOR SELF DEVELOPMENT.

THE DELIVERY OF THIS RIGHT HAS BEEN BOTH NARROW AND BROAD MOST OFTEN DEPENDING ON THE POLITICAL CLIMATE OF CANADA. THIS HAS RANGED FROM NO MORE THAN BASIC NIGHT EDUCATION ADMINISTERED BY THE CROWN, TO THE TENDENCY TOWARDS INCLUSION OF MANY VARIETIES OF EDUCATION DURING THE LAST TWO DECADES.

INDIANS OF ALBERTA

1981

EDUCATION POLICY PAPER

THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, HOWEVER, IS THAT INDIAN PEOPLE PRIOR TO THE TREATIES HAD A DISTINCT AND COMPLETE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION TOUCHING ON ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE - PREPARING ALL INDIVIDUALS FOR SUCCESS AS A PEOPLE. THIS, IN TODAY'S CONTEXT IS WHAT WE MUST IS THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR THE INDIAN PEOPLE OF ALBERTA.

PREPARED BY:

The Alberta Indian
Education Secretariat
of
The Indian Association
of Alberta

P R E A M B L E

AN ESSENTIAL AND UNALIENABLE RIGHT OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE OF ALBERTA IS THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND THAT RIGHT IS ROOTED IN OUR TREATIES.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER IS TO CLARIFY AND AFFIRM THE MEANING OF THIS RIGHT TO EDUCATION. IT IS TO IDENTIFY THE ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE WITHIN EDUCATION. FINALLY, IT IS TO ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR MEANINGFUL SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION AS PART OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE OF ALBERTA'S DIRECTION FOR SELF DEVELOPMENT.

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THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, HOWEVER, IS THAT INDIAN PEOPLE PRIOR TO THE TREATIES HAD A DISTINCT AND COMPLETE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION TOUCHING ON ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE - PREPARING ALL INDIVIDUALS FOR SUCCESS AS A PEOPLE. THIS, IN TODAY'S CONTEXT IS WHAT WE INSIST IS THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR THE INDIAN PEOPLE OF ALBERTA.

FUNDAMENTAL TO THIS RIGHT OF EDUCATION IS CONTROL OF THE EDUCATION PROCESS. THE VARIOUS ADMINISTRATORS OF EDUCATION FOR

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INDIAN PEOPLE HAVE ULTIMATELY FAILED. CONTROL IS AN INHER-
ENT PART OF THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION.

FINALLY, A RIGHT IS AS GOOD AS THE MEANS TO EFFECT ITS REAL-
ITY. TO SAY YES, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT AND LIMIT THE SUPPORT
OF THAT RIGHT FOR REASONS OUTSIDE THE REALITY OF THE RIGHT-
HOLDER IS TO DENY THE RIGHT.

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EDUCATION POLICY PAPER

THE INDIAN PEOPLE OF ALBERTA PRESENT THEIR POLICY PAPER IN
THREE CATEGORIES:

- A.) CONTROL
- B.) PROCESS
- C.) SUPPORT

CONTROL

LOCAL - INDIAN CONTROL OF EDUCATION MUST PROVIDE FOR LOCAL
EDUCATION BODIES WITH RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE
GOVERNING AUTHORITIES OF THEIR COMMUNITIES TO
CONTROL; DIRECTLY, BY INFLUENCE, OR IN CO-OPERA-
TION WITH OTHER EDUCATION BODIES THE SATISFACTION
OF ALL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE
IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.

SECTORIAL - INDIAN CONTROL OF EDUCATION MUST PROVIDE FOR
GROUPINGS OF EDUCATION BODIES BY TREATY AREA,
LINGUISTIC GROUP, GEOGRAPHY OR OTHER SUCH SEC-
TORIAL GROUPING THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES MAY DETER-
MINE. THESE SECTORIAL GROUPINGS MUST HAVE THE
RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE PREVALENT INDIAN GOVERN-
ING AUTHORITIES TO FACILITATE SATISFACTION OF ALL
EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES .
IN A SIMILAR MANNER AS A SCHOOL DIVISION OR DIS-
TRICT.

CENTRAL - INDIAN CONTROL OF EDUCATION MUST PROVIDE FOR A CENTRAL AGENCY FOR EDUCATION THAT, DEPENDENT UPON THE DIRECTION OF THE LOCAL AND SECTORIAL BODIES EXERCISES FACILITATING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BROADER ASPECTS OF EDUCATION SUCH AS CURRICULA, TEACHER EDUCATION AND STANDARDS, FUNDING RELATIONSHIPS ETC. IN THE SAME MANNER AS PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION.

ELEMENTS - THE ELEMENTS OF EDUCATION RELATED TO THIS PAPER INCLUDE LEARNING PROCESSES FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD, THROUGH FORMAL K-12 EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION AND INCIDENTAL FORMS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION.

PROCESS

THE ESSENCE OF THE PROCESS THAT MUST BE AVAILABLE IS THE RIGHT OF EACH LOCAL COMMUNITY TO: DECIDE BY ITSELF; WITH THE AID OF OTHER LOCAL BODIES, SECTORIAL GROUPINGS, CENTRAL BODY, LOCAL DISTRICTS OR DIVISIONS, OR FEDERAL DISTRICTS; - THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF EDUCATION FOR THEIR COMMUNITY.

THE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SECTORIAL GROUPINGS AND CENTRAL BODY WILL FLOW FROM THE FOUNDATION BUILT BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

SUPPORT

- INDIAN - ALL INDIAN GOVERNING AUTHORITIES MUST COMMIT THEMSELVES TO THE VALIDITY OF THE ABOVE. FURTHER, THEY MUST REALIZE THE TRADITIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT SIMILAR DEVELOPMENTS MUST OCCUR IN ALL ASPECTS OF INDIAN LIFE AND BE COMMITTED TO ACT ON THAT REALIZATION.
- GOVERNMENT - THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA MUST PROVIDE THE NE-
OF CESSARY RESOURCES TO ALLOW THE ABOVE POLICIES TO
CANADA OPERATE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT:
- A.) DIMINISHING THE RESOURCES OF OTHER INDIAN PROGRAMS.
- B.) INTERFERING IN THE WORK AND CONSULTATIONS OF THE EDUCATION BODIES DESCRIBED HEREIN.

ALBERTA INDIAN EDUCATION SECRETARIAT
Edmonton, Alberta

October 14, 1981

Mr. Eugene Steinhauer
President
Indian Association of Alberta
11710 Kingsway Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta

The Alberta Indian Education Secretariat welcomes the opportunity to make this presentation today to the Indian Association of Alberta and the All Chiefs Conference.

We have been requested by your office to establish policy parameters and guidelines for education in Alberta. We must respectfully request and recommend that the Indian Association of Alberta and the Chiefs of Alberta establish Indian education as the number one priority in all its operations and policies.

We feel that in order for this education process to succeed in Alberta, there must be a foundation of understanding amongst all Indian people and a firm commitment to the objectives of Indian education.

We are tabling, for your discussion and decision, a general policy statement of principles about Indian education. The time has come for a radical change in Indian education. We are in a crisis, Mr. President and Chiefs of Alberta, in Indian education. Our values, our traditions and our survival as a

Mr. Eugene Steinhauer
President
Indian Association of Alberta

nation is at stake and we have a limited time to address that crisis. We must therefore reclaim our right to direct the education of our children based on this general policy statement tabled for your discussion at this conference. We recognize two fundamental principles of parental responsibility and Indian control of Indian education.

Secondly, as educators, we are concerned about the quality of education and that, Mr. President and Chiefs of Alberta, will be addressed within the framework of our discussion paper.

The National Indian Brotherhood, Mr. President, is currently in the process of conducting a national comprehensive implementation plan for Indian control of Indian Education. We, the Alberta Indian Education Secretariat, would like to state for the record, that we are opposed in principle to this unilateral process. We feel that the Indian people of Alberta, through their individual Indian governments have that right to determine their own destiny in Indian education. The Indian Association of Alberta and the Chiefs of Alberta must establish their own priorities and guidelines which will be designed to meet the actual needs and concerns of our people and our communities. These decisions on Indian control of Indian education and quality education must be made by the Chiefs of Alberta, not by the National Indian Brotherhood or the Department of

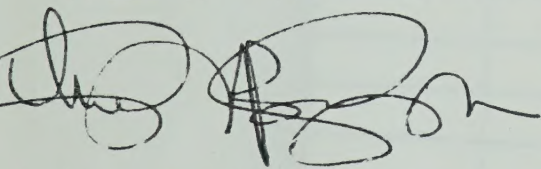
Mr. Eugene Steinhauer
President
Indian Association of Alberta

Indian Affairs.

We respectfully request also, at this time, that the mechanisms for establishing an Alberta policy be done in concert with the Secretariat, the Chiefs of Alberta and the Indian Association of Alberta as soon as possible.

Again, Mr. President and the Chiefs of Alberta, we appreciate the opportunity to make this presentation to outline the Secretariat's concerns of Indian education to Alberta. We ask that serious consideration be given to this very timely and important matter. We await your decision, Mr. President and Chiefs of Alberta. We remain,

Yours in Indian education,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mel. H. Buffalo', is written over a faint grid background.

Mel. H. Buffalo
Chairman
Alberta Indian Education Secretariat

Encl.

/sao

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